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THE

Present Prospect

OF THE

Famous and Fertile ISLAND

OF

TOBAGO

To the Southward of

The Island of *BARBA*

WITH

A Description of the Scituation [illegible]
and Manufacture of the [illegible]
how that 100 *l.* Stock in seven [illegible]
proved to 5000 *l.* per [illegible]

To which is annexed

PROPOSALS for [illegible]
[illegible]

By Captain [illegible]

[illegible]

LONDON:

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TO

The Ever HONOURED

Sr. Joseph Herne.

SIR,

WHereas your Renown speaks you Matchless in doing Good to your KING *and* Countrey *in general, in carrying on Trade to all or most known Parts, your Merits speak your Praise: Witness the propagating the* New-found-Land *Fishery, whom at* Dartmouth *(the chief Burrough-Port of* England *for that Fishery) have Chose you a Member in Parliament, and could do no less; which employs many thousands of Poor at home, and breeds many thousands of Sea-*

men abroad, and encreases Navigation and Trade to most parts of Europe *and elsewhere. And much more to me, in endeavouring so good a Work as to encourage this Undertaking of the Settlement of the Island of* Tobago, *knowing that it must needs be of very great Advantage to all in general concerned in this Affair; for which I humbly pray your patronizing the same, and as in Duty bound I shall be ever obliged to Subscribe my self*

Your Devoted Servant to Comand,

JOHN POYNTZ.

To the *READER.*

Courteous Reader,

THou art here presented with the Present Prospect of the Island of Tobago, *about forty Leagues distant from* Barbadoes; *but far excelling that Island, and indeed any other of the Caribe-Islands, in the Fertility and Richness of the Soil, and in the Commodiousness of its Bays and Harbours: And it is no Parodox to affirm, That though it lies* more South, *the* Air *is as* Cool *and* Refreshing *as that of* Barbadoes: *And yet Exempted from those affrighting and destructive* Hurricanes *that have been often Fatal to the rest of the* Caribe-*Islands.*

Nor is it unfurnished with any thing necessary for the Sustenance and Preservation of Humane Life, as you will see by the Ensuing Prospect of it, in which there is nothing set down but what will be attested by several that have been upon the Island, and what thou wilt find there, if Providence should bring thee thither: For there is variety enough of the real Products of the Island to dilate upon, without Interlarding it with fictitious Stories:

And I am perswaded there is no Island in America,

that can afford us more ample Subjects to contemplate the Bounty and Goodness of our Great Creator in, than this of Tobago; *And this I speak not by hear-say, or as one that has liv'd always at home, but by experience, having made Eleven several Voyages to the said Island, and as one that has had Experience of the World, and been in the greatest part of the* Caribe-*Islands, and most parts of the Continent of* America, *and almost all his Majesties Forreign Plantations; and after having view'd them all, have chosen this Island of* Tobago *to take up my* Quietus est *in.*

To which end I have purchased a Grant from the Duke of Courland, *of* 120000 *Acres of the said Island for my self and Company, upon very Advantagious Conditions, for which I refer thee to the Proposals at the end of the Book; and to the Grant it self, in my own Custody; Being very willing to give all reasonable Satisfaction to those whose hearts shall incline to settle there.*

JOHN POYNTZ.

The Present PROSPECT OF TOBAGO: WITH

A Description of the Scituation, Fertility, Growth and Manufacture of that Island.

AS I design only to describe the Flourishing Island of *Tobago*, so I resolve by the Methods I have taken, not to build the *Porch* too big for the *House*: For that end let this small Introduction admit you to a Prospect of *Tobago*, which is a Subject that needs no Encomium to illustrate so fertile a Soil as deservedly may speak her own praise, because consented to by most that have known her, to vie with the Glory of all the *Caribes*: So that I approve it convenient she be heard to speak, and in her own Dialect too, than to Examine by those that consult her, she'll be found to evince the Incredulous beyond suspicion.

And since in the Frontispiece I have promised to introduct

troduct you to the Scituation of the Island, I do it by telling you that it lyes Eleven Degrees Thirty Minutes North-Latitude, and in Fifty Three Degrees Six Minutes Longitude, West from the *Lizard*; and about Forty Leagues distant from the flourishing *Barbadoes*, as Captain *Lloyd* asserts in his Breviat; who also affirms it the most convenient, commodious, and salubrious Island in the *Caribes*; and truly so it may, being so sweetly tempered with those moderate and sovereign Breezes of Wind that refresh the Planter by Day, and purges the Air by Night: So that the Day-breez springs by favour from the Ocean, and rises with the Sun, and lessens with the setting Sun, as does the Night-breez refresh by softer Gales, sent from her pleasant and Mountanous Elevations. Nor is the rage of a Tempest at any time heard to to dread the Inhabitants, nor the terror of a Hurricane ever known to invade them, which of all things is most dreadful, and consequently most fatal to the rest of the *Caribes*, this being the Southermost Island, (and nearest to the *Spanish* Coast) which no Hurricane has hitherto invaded, as ever was heard of by any of the Inhabitants. However it exceeds not Thirty two miles in length, and I should err to say more than Eleven in Breadth; which disproportion is sufficiently recompens'd by the Natural Scituation of the Bays and the Harbours for Shipping; as are the Rivers, Rivulets, and larger openings convenient for Navigating of Sloops and smaller Vessels, whereby to furnish the Inhabitants, and commode them for defence, and to load and unload Goods.

Inasmuch therefore as by reason of her Fertility she acquires to her self the Sirname of *Fortunate*, except otherwise the *Dutch* superscribe her *Unfortunate*, when, because to involve them in her Dolent Embracements,

or

or to invite Forreign Princes to emulate their Prosperity: However at present she lives in peace, and to out-live her troubles, and by the Providence of God sleeps in the Arms of Security: Whose Soil is so rich without Art or Cultivation, that some have fancied her the *Paradise* of the *Indies*, dreſt up in a beauteous Complexion of Soil, that represents in some parts a most pleasant Redness, whilst to admiration in other places it shines with Blackness; and because mingled for the most part with a Marley Substance, penetrates the Earth a considerable depth; which evidently proves by convincing Argument, the prodigious growth of her massy and ponderous Timber-Trees, of which we shall speak in their proper Classis; as also of the Natural Plenty and Produce of Provision, the Delicacy of Fruits, and the Soveraign Vertue of Roots, Herbs, Flowers, and Medicinal Drugs; besides Natures Bounty in Variety of Beasts, and Heavens Benediction in the multiplication of Fish and Fowl, that abound both in fresh and in salt Water; which because of another Order, will the rather admit of a distinct Discourse: So the Staple of the Island, and the Natural Product will give us an occasion to offer it somewhere else.

But the Planters and the Inhabitants present a new Prospect, whose Charge will be much lessened to those that live Northwardly, by reason of a warm yet temperate Heat, because moderated by a continued Breez of Wind; So that here's no Summer spent on purpose to accumulate or heap up Provision for Winters Accomodation; because all the year long both Herbage and Fruits sprout and bud up by a perpetual Spring; and the Warmth in it self so natural to nourish Age, as is the Germinating (or budding) Spring to give encouragement to Youth. And the Island is so replenish'd with materials for Building, that provided you bring dextrous Hands and good Artificers, you may in a lit-

tle Time, and with small Charge, build both Houses and Towns, or Fortifications.

The next thing to consult is, The Growth and Manufacture of the Countrey, improvable by Industry, and the Mediums of Art; which will fall in course at the Opening of Individuals; so that we may proceed to the several particulars, referring the Reader for satisfaction to the Proposals, if desirous to consult the Grant, Government, Religion, Liberty of Conscience, the Settlement, Insurance, Accommodation, Factories, Shipping, and Encouragement for Transportation; which is fully exprest, without Fraud or Ambiguity.

Of GRAIN.

FIrst therefore let us begin with *Indian Corn*, which is either such as grows in *Virginia*, *New-York*, *Carolina*, &c. and so proceed to *Guiney-Corn*, or any other that hath growth in the Island. But I shall delude you, to tell you that *English Grain* grows here: However there are English Pease, and of various sorts; and Beans, and Pulse enough, as you may observe if you please, by the ensuing Discourse.

The *Indian-Corn* buds, and grows out with a small stem upon a strong stalk, (which stalk they burn in *Barbadoes* under their Coppers in Crop time, to boil up their Sugar) and has a fibrous or stringy Root; some of it brings one Ear, some two, and some others three: But the green Leaves in most of the *Caribbe* Isles, they frequently strip off, and give them to their Cattle. Of this sort of Corn you may expect at least two, if not three Crops yearly, to a very great Increase; whereof very

very good Bread is made; and with indifferent Art, a most delicate Drink.

The *Guiney Corn* is much of the figure and the nature of *Rice*; save only *Rice* has a slender stalk, and a smaller Ear, and grows in Swamps and moist Bottoms; but this will grow on the Tops of Rocks, and produce its Increase upon any Soil. The stalk is strong, very large and tall; and the Corn sprouts forth on the top, or extreamest part of the stalk, (it has a fibrous Root) and augments to a prodigious increase; for one Grain by natural Product, without the Art of Cultivation, multiplies of it self into many thousands. Of this they make Bread, Dumplins, and Puddings; and some hull it like *Rice*, and boil it with Milk, or otherways, *&c.*

The *Bonivis* represents the shape of a Pea, save only its somewhat longer; which if once put into the ground, the Art of Man can hardly destroy it; for it seldom dies, but continually buds, and blossoms, accomodating the Planter with green, and ripe Pease all the year about. Nor think I them inferiour to the best of *French Beans*, if indifferently boiled, and eaten with sweet Butter, or the fat of *Tortois*; but then it must be while they are green and tender; for when they are ripe, their Case or Rind turns white; which if dried, and as other Pulse boiled, are eaten with Pork, and are a Nourishing Food.

Then there's the *French Pea*, so much admired in *Martineco*; I confess it a wholesome and strengthening Food, both for Native and Planter, which also thrives to a prodigious increase, and bears without interruption all the year about.

So of the *Jamaica*, (or the five weeks Pea) by slender Art or Industry you can never want them; and he that wants them, has always something that's good and wholesome to feed on. But as Idleness is the Darling

of Ease, so through a vain Remissness some slide into Poverty.

There is also the *Kidney-Pea*, and the *Black-ey'd-Pea*, much of one nature and vertual property; and because of its figure, formation, and likeness to the *Kidney-Bean*, have almost to superstition made some fancy it a Specifick.

The *Pidgeon-Pea* grows here also, and is a pleasant Food; but they must be gathered whilst as yet they are young, and eaten with sweet Butter whilst their Buds are tender.

Then there's the *French-Bean* (of a very large size) which if eaten with sweet Butter or Bacon, or the Fat of Tortoise, which exceeds Butter, makes a Harmony in the Stomach. Besides several other various and curious sorts of Pulse this Island produceth, to the admiration of all men: So that if Summer Grain be so happy to fall into that fertile Soil, it never misseth of a generous increase. Moreover, here are all manner of Pulse, as if naturally strewed up and down the Countrey, and which also springs up all the year about. So that People need not to be tempted into the consideration of Starving, except through Obstinacy, or a vain Neglect, or degenerating from Mankind, they offer an Unnatural Violence to themselves.

I remember the wonderful preservation of Mr. *O. Eden*, (a Dutch man) that fled in a small Vessel from *Surinam*, to preserve himself and Family, which by God's Providence were miraculously preserved in this Fortunate Island of *Tobago*, but a Stranger on the place, and because having no Bread to eat, and his half-famish'd Children lamenting about him, it struck him into a deep Melancholy: So that whiles under a heavy pressure of mind, and considering what to do, a Protestant-*Indian* that

that fled along with him, asked Mr. *Eden*, *Why out of measure be ye so sorrowful?* Mr. *Eden* replies, *I that have fed so many scores of People with Bread, have not at present wherewithall to eat*: To which the *Indian* answered, *That God that gave you preservation, has brought you into a Land of Plenty; Despair not, Mr.* Eden; *Furnish me with a Negro or two, and a couple of Axes, and I'll suddenly bring you Bread to eat*: Which was presently performed by striking down a large *Macam* Tree, there being many thousands of the said Trees in this Island (about the bigness of a mans middle) and of the whitish pithy substance in the whole Body of the Tree he beat in a Mortar, then pressed out the Juyce, and boiled it to the consistency of a Hasty-Pudding: But the residue he kneaded into Paste, and moulds into Cakes; of which like Bread I eat at my arrival in *Tobago* at the same *Eden*'s House, and did verily perswade my self (before I heard this Relation) that it was Dutch Wheaten Bisket.

Of FRUIT.

I Am now entred upon the Classis of *Fruits*, and shall first begin with the *Cashew Apple*, which is meat and drink; only made distinguishable by the Art of boyling, whose Nuts if preserv'd you may eat, and of the Rind whiles green make an excellent Lamp-Oyl, which by small artifice is easily obtainable.

But the *Bonano* is a fruit of that singular admiration that the Superstitious *Papists* durst not cut it with a Knife, lest desponding with himself he divide the Cross. This Fruit also may be eaten raw, or bettered by an easie

easie Decoction of Fire, and makes good Drink; and an excellent Spirit may be distilled therefrom.

Here is also the *Figg-Tree*, such as is that in *Spain* and *Portugal*, and several parts in *America*; which Fruit may be eaten while as yet its ripe, or exposed to better Husbandry; it serves for good Drink.

Then there's the *Prickle-Apple*, of a sharp brisk taste, (and an *Indian* expedient against the *Bloody-Flux*;) it makes a brave *Marmalade*; and helps for staining and colouring any thing. But the *Prickle-Pear*, to speak its due praise, is one of the most Sovereign Fruits in the *Indies*.

The *Prickle Pears* when ripe have a red mellifluous substance flows out of the top of the *Pear*, where in the *Spanish Indies* the Flyes settle themselves thereon, and the said Flyes sucks the same, and the sweetness thereof being clammy, the Fly is caught thereby; such is those Flyes that the Cocheneal is of; and the *Pear* if dryed is that we call *Silvester*, good for Dyers.

The *Pome-granate* is a Fruit of that singular Eminency as hardly to be express'd without a Scriptural Phrase, they are plentiful here, a restringent and cooler; Consulted by the Natives in Feavors and Fluxes.

The *Pine-Apple* I must confess is a Fruit of that Excellency, that I want Rhetorick and Oratory to express it. Some bears a Crown, and is the King of Fruits; but to them with three Crowns the Idolatrous pay their Superstitions: The Fruit of it self is of Fruit most delicious, and the Liquor botled up makes an admirable Drink.

Here are also *Pum-Citrons*, that make an excellent Preserve.

But of *Oranges* here are three sorts, the sower for Sauce, and the Flowers for Essences, the sweet ones are

are eaten for Recreation. But the *China-Orange* that grows here in *America*, superexcels those in *Europe* beyond express.

Of *Lemons* also here are two several sorts, the sower one for *Lemonadoes*, and the sweet one for Delectation. So of *Limes* also, here are sweet and sower, with the last of which they make Limeads and Punch, and *Lime-juice* for Transportation.

Guiavos are a Fruit that's very stony, there's the white and the red, but they differ in Virtue; and if baked or boyled green, are either of them Specificks against immoderate Purgations. Moreover, if you weed or pick out the stones, you have then a basis for Marmalade to equalize Quinces.

Tamarinds grow here by natural instinct, they are a delicate Fruit, and vertual in Feavors.

But the *Planton* of all Fruits the *Negroes* love best, and is a nourishing sovereign wholsom Food: Some eat them raw when Nature has ripened them, and some again roast them before they be ripe; some eat them green, and some take and boyl them; they will make the best Wine, or if Distilled make a good Spirit, excelling Brandy. Now to roast them they are Bread, and to boyl them they are sawce, or Marmalade may be made, but to barbacue or dry them in the Sun you may rub them to Flower, and so make it into a Paste.

Here are Grapes great store, but are eaten off the Clustre, for the Planter has another Prospect more profitable than Wine.

The *Custard-Apple* to my taste I must confess is very delightful, and the best Fruit in the World against Wind, and a Rupture or Broken Belly.

Then there's the *Sower Sop*, a mediocrity of Nourishment; to some its meat, when to other some drink.

And

And the *Papaw-Apple*, which to my liking is very grateful, and appetizing when shaped into Sawce, by boyling it with salt Beef, and if so happy to mingle it with sweet and fresh Butter, except the *Squash*, there's nothing beyond it.

The *Mamme Apple* grows to the magnitude of a pound Pear, it's of a yellow colour, and eats like Marmalade. Then there's the *Mamme Supporter*, much of the same Nature with the former, save only the last has two stones, and the first as in order is endewed but with one.

The *Tellow Plum* grows every where here, and is of Plums a most luscious Food.

There are *Cherry-trees* also, (which bear the Year about) whose Fruit is somewhat of a sharpish taste; then there's the Cherry which the *Spaniard* calls *Purgas*, which when throughly ripe are mellifluous and sweet, of a cooling and opening Nature, which if preserv'd would be a Rarity for *England*.

But the *Cocoa-Nut-tree*, and the Fruit that hangs upon it, the *Indians* Idolize it, and call it God's tree, because to produce both meat, drink, and cloth. It's true beyond dispute, that the Nut of it self is a sweet beyond the sweetest *Almond*, and the Liquor that lodgeth in the bosom of this fruit is to my liking beyond *Florens* at *Frontiniack*: But the Shell serves for Cups, Spoons and Dishes, and the Rind encompassing the Shell serves the *Indians* for covering, and with the Leaves they thatch their Houses, and make Baskets, but some more Ingenious make Ropes and Lines for *Fishing*.

Of the *Maccaw-Nut-shell* the *Indians* make the boles of their *Tobacco-pipes*; the Kernel is eatable, yet not very admirable; but the outward part of the Nut makes an excellent Lamp Oyl.

Then

Then there's the *Physick Nut*, of whose tree they make Essences: The Nut of it self is a violent Emetick, as also a *Cathartick*; but the whole macerated, and boyled with Water, by a culinary Operation affords you Lamp Oyl.

Here are also two sorts of *Melons*; the one is called *Musk*, but the other the *Water-Melon*. The first is a food of incomparable taste; but the last affords you both Drink and Meat; of which you can never eat to a Surfeit, they far exceed them in *Europe*.

Penguins are a brisk and sharp fruit, extoll'd by the *Indians* for their Excellency in Feavers.

There are *Cucumbers* of two sorts; the one to eat raw, and the other to pickle.

And prodigious *Pumkins*, I blush to express their magnitude, with *Simnels* and *Squashes* much of a Nature concordant; these make exeellent sawce to eat with Salt Beef, and if rightly ordered far excel Coleworts.

Then there's two sorts of *Gourds*; the sweet one, which the Planter boyls to make Broth Medicinal; and the wild Gourd for Instruments, and Vessels to contain Liquors, and for other uses of divers sorts great and small.

Of Roots.

THis Island of *Tobago* Accommodates the Planter with three sorts of *Potatoes*; the white, the Yellow, and the red *Potato*; but the white and the Yellow they boyl for food, and are the general Nourishment all the *Indies* over. Now of the Yellow sort the more

ingenious, with a Tincture of the Red, make a pleasant Liquor, which when sweetned with Sugar they bottle it up, and after twenty four hours its ready for drinking: This is a Liquor known only by the name of *Mobby*, and is the universal drink in the Island of *Tobago* and *Barbadoes*.

There are *Eddies* also, a most incomparable Root; and *Yames*, the whole World has not better to boast of, for a wholesome, toothsome, and a Nourishing Root; there is the *Toocohon Root*, good food for Men, growing wild, the Hogs grow fat therewith, being great plenty; besides divers other Roots that I have no Name for. These and *Potatoes* are their natural Bread, if not improper to call it so; however it's food, if not bread of another fashion. Then there's *Turnips*, *Parsnips*, *Onions* and *Carrots*; but these last are nourisht by art, in as much as none of them are *America*'s natural product.

The *Cassado* Root ranges it self in another order, whose Liquor intoxicates, and is as truculent as Death. But the Bread thereof, if by a diligent hand well ordered, is as pleasant and wholesome as our *English* Flower; and the Drink which afterwards is made of the Bread, is a Liquor steddy, (and heady enough) known by the name of *Pereno*.

Of Herbs and Spices.

HEre for the most part you may by your industry cause all sorts of sallating to grow, since Nature has been bountiful by the preordinate Council of Heaven to influence and impregnate this Island with variety; and truly I have wondred how the soil comes to be

so

so rich, till considering it's nourished by a Nitrous Air. *Pursley*, a Sallad, here is a common Herb that grows wild, the Hogs feed fat therewith. And this is the place wherein *Tea* grows naturally, (and plentifully) meaning such *Tea* as is frequently sold in our *English* Coffee-Houses.

There is also a certain Bark that's called by the name of *Tobago*-Cinnamon, that grows upon a Shrub, or a small Tree. Then there is long Pepper, that sprouts up in every Angle ; and *Cod Pepper*, *Bell Pepper*, and *Round Pepper* ; some red, and some green, that grows naturally without cultivation. Then there's that famous *American Spice*, (or *Jamaica Pepper*) that gives both the redolency, flavour and taste of Cloves and Cinnamon, with a complicated mixture of several and various sweets ; but these fall from the *Bay-tree*. Many other profitable Rarities, as *Fruits*, and *Roots*, besides what's set down in this short Paragraph, this Island, because adorned with *Roots* and *Herbage*, liberally and freely presents them to the industrious Planter ; but not as a gratuity to compensate his labour, rather out of a bounteous and innate generosity.

Of Flesh.

AND now we present you with the Classis of *Flesh*, give me leave therefore in the first place to begin with the *Wild-Hog*, of which sort of Cattle their numbers are innumerable ; when yearly the people cut off at least twenty thousand, and yet they encrease so prodigiously fast, that neither Gun, nor Engin, nor any other Artifice can be found to destroy them. It's truth beyond suspition

pition, that the *Barbadians* kill some of them, but the rest of the *Carthes* and others are daily visitants; who to save it for transportation, or preserve it for their own accommodation, commonly Jerk, and dry salt it in the Sun, or in Bulk or Pickle. But here you are to consider in the description of Flesh, I only touch upon the natural produce of the Countrey.

The *Pickery* is a Beast much resembling a Hog, save only he draws his Breath at his ventricle; which for the most part concentrates on the middle of his Back; which Creature by observation is swifter of foot than the Hog is; but then his Flesh is leaner, and relishes more of Venison then of Pork, and is taken with more difficulty then usually Hogs are, because swifter of Foot, and many times endangers the Dogs that attempt him. So that he's seldom destroyed without Gun, or Dart, by reason of the excessive largeness of his tusks that branch themselves upwards, as also downwards; yet as formidable as he presents himself to the apprehension of some men, hitherto none has known him to set upon a Man.

Then here's great quantities of the *Armidillas* (which the *Hollander* calls *Tattoos*) that are Arm'd with Armour on their Backs, and the largest among them but of an indifferent size, seldom exceeding one foot in height. They are a Creature that generally feeds upon Fruits and Roots, and when roasted have the natural taste of a Pig, but then the Flesh is much more Physical; as if Nature had made it a Specifick for a Surfeit.

Moreover, for accommodating, *Horses*, *Cows*, *Ass-Negoes*, *Sheep*, *Deer*, *Hogs*, *Goats*, *Rabbits*, &c. I should lame my Description, and unworthily conceal the plenty of a Countrey that represents to every one the bounty of Nature by Heavens generosity.

In

In this Island you will meet with two sorts of *Guanos*; the one of a green, but the other of a grey colour, which is shaped like a *Lizard*, somewhat resembling the *Allegator*. I have seen some of those Creatures four and five foot in length, they live upon Herbs, Insects, and Fruits, and burrow like a Coney in the hollow Pits in sand. The *Indians* extol them for Food, but the green *Guano* is a more delicate and nutricious meat, who lives only by eating of Fruits and Flies; nor is he all out so big as the gray one (resembling the Creature we call the Camelion) he lodgeth upon Trees, not in Cavities of Rocks, nor will he soil himself in marley Earth.

The *Indian* Coney is a delicate Creature, much bigger, much taller, and larger then ours are. Their meat is pleasant, wholsome, and delicious. And their Skins aromatically smell of Musk, which occasioned some strangers to call them Musk-Squirils, (or sweet Rats, though somewhat improper) however their Skins are a good sort of Furr, and the rather because of their natural Perfume.

Then there's the *Apossum*, another sort of a Creature, who is in resemblance much of the cast and figure of our *English Badger* (but his Legs are equal) and the most of any thing assimulates the *Racome*, but naturally they so love Mankind in general, that he follows him, comes to him, and delights to gaze on him. So that by Industry and an easie artifice, there's but little difficulty to make him tame: However the Female has a false, or loose Belly, where she suckles her young Ones, and secures them from the Attempts of any Creature that would harm them.

Of Armed Creatures.

SUch is the Land *Tortois*; which vulgarly goes by the name of *Turtle*. But they are of two sorts, and inhabit different Soils. For the lesser (to his liking) pads the dry ground, whiles the larger contents himself in low and moist bottoms: Some sort of people eat them, and commend their food for good Diet; some of them are bigger, and some less; but the weightiest to my Observation exceeded not thirty pounds.

Here in the Island are four sorts of Land-Crabbs, *(viz.)* the Red, the Black, the White and the Blew Crab; but the Red of himself is naturally so, because Nature adorns him with more Beauty externally than internally she enriches him with Aliment and Nutrition. Yet some have fancied them very goood food, and highly applaud them; but this sort of Crab loves a Rocky and dry Land, who seldom or rarely consults the Water.

The next in order we call the black Crab, from which the blew Crab differs but a little; they are both good food, yet their excess breeds Fluxes; the one storms the Hills because high minded, but the other more submissive contents himself in Dales.

Then there's the White Crab, (larger than the rest) that generally lives in swamps, and miry places: I know not what they feed on, but are of themselves most delicious food. Of this sort of Crabs, because so numerous, the Lazy *Indian* wo'nt leave his *Hamacca* to catch them; except in rainy Weather, when they creep into their Houses, it may be then they'll take so much pains

pains as to ſtretch forth an arm to fling them into the fire, ſo roaſt and eat them. Theſe Crabs we call Delvers, becauſe of their undermining the ground.

Of the ſame Claſſis is the *Land Shell Souldier*, whoſe Claws reſemble the Claws of a Crab, but is of himſelf a very little Creature; ſome ſay they are eatable, but I warrant not that; however their fat is a ſovereign Oyl, and of that ſingular Virtue and Excellency, as to blunt the Venom of a poiſoned Dart.

Of Fiſhes.

AND now I am got into the Claſſis of Fiſh, I ſhall offer you a preſent of the *Grooper* firſt, becauſe he is a Fiſh generally much bigger than the *Salmon*; whoſe Head ſuper-excels the Head of a *Cod* for goodneſs; but an Angler may diſtinguiſh Salt-water fiſh from *Salmon*, but in my judgment it far exceeds the *Salmon*.

Next to the *Grooper* we bring you the grey *Porgo*; who though in ſtature and figure ſeems a leſſer fiſh, yet is he nothing inferiour for delicate food. Then there's the Red *Porgo*, of a faint pink-colour, and ſcaled like the Grey, as is the Grey like the *Grooper*, ſcales as big as a half-crown peice of late; this Filh of fiſh is the Fiſhermans charm, and every mans purchaſe, whoſe hook and line may eaſily reach him.

But there are two ſorts of *Cavallas*, the Green and the Grey; the laſt we call *Horſe-eye*, of the ſize of a *Salmon*, and ſcaled much alike. But the Green *Cavalla* is leſs than a *Grooper*, and is infinitely preferr'd before the Grey for Delicacy of Taſte, more excellent food, and much more Nutritious.

Of

Of the *Mullet* here are plenty, some bigger, and some less; from the size of a *Mackeral*, to the extent of a *Pickerel*. This fish I prefer for its delicacy of Food, and by an ingenious Artist makes excellent *Scavache*.

So the *Sea-chub* in *Tobago* is a fish of that excellency, that any ways dreſt is a food extraordinary; but then he must be fresh and bleeding new, otherwise he neither affords good food, nor will he make but indifferent Physick; this fish of all fish makes the Royal *Scavache*, as the Row of the *Mullet* makes the best *Buttargo*.

The *Manatee* or *Sea cow* is of an amphibious Nature, that eats grass like an Ox, and swims like an *Otter*; that lives sometimes under Water, and grows to a prodigious greatness; for some of them have weighed ten or twelve hundred pound weight; they are struck with Harping Irons, or other Engines, and so taken, whose flesh of fish necessity only extols it; but the Skin if well managed makes a kind of Bend-leather, and may be tanned into good Leather; and the ill Management thereof is, when they Manatee the poor *Negroes*, with straps made thereof.

Of the fish called *Turtle*, there are various sorts; the *Hawks-bill*, the *Vandoras*, the *Logerhead*, and the green *Turtle*; which the Native *Indian* out of a strange admiration, have to a degree of Superstition thought among themselves that the last was sacred; for they call it Gods fish, by reason of the extraordinary virtue that's found therein, as if compendiously summ'd up to serve all *America*. And as I suppose, if the fat of these *Turtles* is boyled up and skummed, by which means the uncleanness is taken off, and afterwards potted up, it will keep good for a whole year, as they do in *Germany* with their Butter. And truly I can assert it a Medicinal food, for it cured me of Poyson; from that intoxicated Palm-

Wine

Wine that the *Negroes* gave me, when last in *Guiney*; which Poyson was expeled at the *Catamanas*, about ten Months after, by eating of *Turtle*; but for the *Ghonorea*, the *Lues*, and the *French-pox*, there is not in Nature a food more effectual. This rariety of a Creature has three large hearts, that hang together in one string; and as the *Manattee* is, so is she, an Amphibion that lives in the Water, and without it; that swims like a fish, yet in the Sand lays Eggs like a Fowl; whose fish is flesh, and admits of various tastes; as of Veal, of Beef, but the fat is green, and eats like Marrow; and their Eggs undistinguishable from those of a Hen, which if pickled, strung up, and barbacued in the Sun, are little or nothing inferior to *Bantango*. And though notwithstanding the *Vanadras Turtle* assimulates somewhat the Nature of the Green, yet is her fat not by half so sweet, and is of a more yelowish Complexion. But the *Hawks-bill* is smaller, and not so Soveraigh; but then it excels the former in Substance, for our *Tortois* Combs are shaped from that shell, who also lays her Eggs in the Sand, as the rest do. But the *Logerhead*, because larger in the front then his Fellows, shews more bulkey, and is a bigger fish. Now we propound you three ways to take them; either by spoils, which are shaped into Nets; or by a strong prong of Iron, fastned to a Pole; or otherwise by turning of their *Calopeia* upwards. These are the usual ways we take them, and their plenty is such in this Island of *Tobago*, that one nights work may supply a thousand people with food for more than twice twenty four hours.

The next that presents in order is the *Barracoote*, and they are of two sorts, and some about two foot in length, they have a long Beak, or Snout, filled full of Teeth, which when you would surprise them by a hook,

 and

and line, be sure you arm well with wier, for at least two foot in length. The white mouth'd *Barracooto* is the wholsomest Fish, for the black mouth'd Fish his Teeth are venomous, and the fleshy substance, especially near the Back-bone.

Then there's the great *Garr*, which the *Spaniard* calls *Needle Fish*, about some two foot long; whose bill is shaped like a *Snite*, good and wholsome Diet. But the smaller *Garr fish*, which also has a long Beak, and seldom exceeds twelve inches in length, besides his Beak or Bill, if by an Artist drest and fried with fresh Butter, or the fat of the green *Tortois*, which is as sweet as Butter, it's difficult to distinguish his Taste from a *Smelt*.

The *Pilchard* we have also here (but then its smaller than ours in *England*) which rush into the Bays for self-preservation, when chased or pursued by a Master Fish: So that sometimes part of their shoals are forced ashoar, and taken up by Casting-Nets (and others) in very great quantities. But the *Pilchard* in *Barbados* are feavourish some months in the year, but here may be pickled to serve the Planter for food.

Here also we have a Fish which we call an *Anchovy*, much smaller than a *Pilchard*, and of an *Anchovy* shape; which if taken in season, and pickled by Art, may for ought I know, vye with those from Forreign Parts.

The *Hedge-hog* Fish we have here also, that are arm'd with prodigious strong Prickles, which in bigness and largeness exceed the Land *Urchin*. Some have eaten them, and say they are very good food; but I rather approve of their Oyl for Aches.

So of the *Coney Fish*, which is of a smaller Size, that has purchased his Name from the shape of his Mouth. He's a Fish as seldom fed on as any Fish, but his Flesh drawn out and neatly stuft, they send

them

them to *England*, and other Parts, for Rarities.

But the *Indian Sturgeon* (so called by the *English*) frequents the Bays, and are some of them five or six foot in length. The Fish wants only the art of well curing, to preserve it for transportation into Remoter Parts. However, if you eat him fresh, you will find him excellent Food, they are taken with the line, and sometimes with Nets; but take them at all times they are seldom out of Season. Now were there a Fishery erected in this Island, without dispute it would turn to a very good accompt.

The *Dolphin* is a Fish that gives chase to the flying fish, which are numberless here. But the *Dolphin* in his chase shines of a golden colour, when at other times (he preys not) his Scales shew like Silver. They are taken with the Hook, as we sail round the Island; some of them two, or three foot long, and more. They are delicate food, and make a fine Scaveche; which to admiration when their lives expire, they reflect a tincture of what presents unto them: By which we may perceive, that the privation of water (which is their natural Element) causes an immediate Cessation of the actions of life.

The *Flying-fish* is not all out so big as a *Herring*, nor by so much delightsom, but is delicate food; which makes several *Fishes* in the Sea to prey upon him, who in a fresh gale dilates his fins, which Nature has lent him, as wings to fly with, and which conveys him sometimes half a furlong, or further: So that dipping his Wings again into the salt Ocean, he readily prepares for another flight, and mindful of the *Fish* pursuing after him, he flies into the chains or midship of a Vessel, and sometimes on the Quarter Decks; as it happened to me in my Passage to *Barbadoes*, that a flying Fish as

I sat at the Table, sprung out of the Sea, and flew into my Lap.

The *Boneto* likewise he prays upon flying fish, and is taken with the Hook, though sometimes we stick them with Fisgigs, which with sharpened and barbed Prongs of Iron are fastned to a Pole, having some lead on the extreamest part. Some of this kind are thirty inches long; which boyled and eaten with fresh Butter, or Oyl, and the juyce of a Lemmon, makes a Food most delicious.

So the *Albacore*, that has the figure and shape of a *Boneto*, yet is he bigger, longer and larger; much of the nature and relish of the *Boneto*, and preys on the flying fish, as the *Boneto* does. By which you may conclude, that the flying fish of all fish is surrounded with Enemies.

Then there's the *Amber Fish*, an Excellent Food; so is the *Angel Fish*, and the *green Swallow* Tail; but the last is a fish not much bigger than a *Herring*: All of them take the hook, and if they like their commons despond not of death, when to sacrifice their lives to the Angler, or Hand, Hooks and Line.

The *Parrot Fish*, whose Scales shine with green and yellow, his head resembles the head of a *Parrot*, let the delicacy of the Food praise it self. So of the *Golden Fish*, called *Dorado*, (by the *Spaniard*) his Scales all glister like Gold. This and the other is about the size of a *Mackeril*, equivalent in Food with the former fish. And of fresh fish, every River and Rivulet swarms with Plenty.

The next *Armado* that in order approach us, are the Shell-fish, for that end let us martial the *Lobster* or *Craw-Fish* first, which are of a prodigious growth in these parts, yet have not their Fore-Claws, as those in *England*, but

but they are extreamly delicious to the *Gusto*, because they have a sweet, and if with liberty I may presume to say it, a pleasant and delightful tast. But then the *Tobago Crab* as much excels our *English Crab*, as the *Lobster* is approved above comparison. But they have *green Crabs*, which in shape are like those in *England*, save only by nature they have a larger growth; these sort of *Crabs* are delicious *Food*.

The *Sea-souldier* assimulates the *Crab*, by reason of the great and smaller Claws, whose Shell resembles a Snail the most of any thing, and looks like Pearl of an obscure colour.

The *Cunick* is a Shell fish, of which we have plenty, nor have I known a sweeter Food; two Boys in two hours may take enough for 500 Men. This Fish may be boiled, stewed with wine, or fried with fresh Butter, or the Fat or Oyl of the *green Tortois*; eat them any ways, or any how, there's no Fish I perswade my self better of his kind; whose Shell has the tincture of Pearl colour, flame colour, and white; some part thereof being taken out, the *Indians* make of it their *Wompum Pieg*; which shell is a staple Commodity at *New York*, amongst the *Indians*.

The *Horn-fish*, I have seen some of them ten Inches long, and not unlike the resemblance of a *Post-boys horn*: The Shell of this *Fish* is of a fine *figure*, and partly of a Pearl colour, but not very Orient; yet the meat very excellent.

The *Orney* also is a sort of *Shell fish*, that sticks and adheres to the sides of Rocks; some of them you may pick up as big as an Egg, which if eaten with sweet Oyl of *Tortois*, or Butter, are a delicious food; and the shell of this fish has an Orient Tincture.

So of the *Scollop-fish*, whose shell is as big as a saucer, and

and partly resembling a Pearl in colour. This Fish has but half a shell, and sticks on the Rocks as Bird-lime to a twigg, which if neatly drest, and well ordered, you'll have little cause to complain of your diet.

Cockles grow here to the bigness of an Egg, but then there's an inferiour growth that never arrive to that Maturity; both lye in Sand, but examin'd by the fire, and if you have no aversion to other fish, I'll pass my word you will find good food of them.

Of the *Sea-Snail*, here are very great quantities, and some of them you will meet with as big as your fist; they lye very thick, and close together, on very Sholes and Rocks, and sometimes on Banks that are almost dry, which without difficulty may be attempted, and taken at low-water. Their Shells are of a curious Figure to form Cups of, and as much as any fish imitates the Oriental.

The *Rock-Oyster* adheres to the cliffs of the Rocks, the inside of whose Shell is of a shining colour, his Liquor brackish, and his flesh good food. But that other *Oyster* that produceth the Pearl, they lye in some four or five fathom Water, which the *Indians* dive for, to obtain that treasure; but we think to examin a readier expedient, if when once we come to have Dredges amongst us.

But the *Mangrove Oyster*, that grows upon Trees, on the tops of Boughs, and the smaller Branches; for you must know the red *Mangrove* grows always in Salt-water, and the tops of the Trees, because bending their boughs downwards, (peradventure lick on the Surface of the water) which by natural instinct incline towards their roots. By this means the Oysters cluster, and clung together about them, that not a Bough is barren. Now some folks eat them out of curiosity, but truly I can-

cannot commend them for good food. Their Shells partly Pearl-colour, and almost transparent; and because very thin and clear, the *Spaniards* substitute them in lieu of Glass for Windows.

The *Sea-Egg* is of two sorts, some black, and some grey. But either sort are guarded, and arm'd with Prickles. But the grey Eggs are the Oysters, because resembling them in taste, and are eaten raw, with Vinegar and Pepper; but better stewed with Wine, and Shellots, and sometimes with a cast of *East-India-Spices*; which so ordered, I confess there's no richer food. So that you may read in the Compendious Catalogue, some fish are for Food, and some others for Physick.

Of Fowl.

NOw Gentlemen, as we have described the Race and Family of Fish; so if you please let us consult the Genealogy of Fowl, their vertue and variety; because multiplied here, as if *Tobago* was a Paradice for *English* Men to inhabit in. *First* therefore give me leave to begin with the *Bill Bird*, whose Bill, or Beak, shews as big as his Body; an evidence whereof is in St. *James*'s Park; but the *Indians* eat them, and extol them for *Food*.

Then there's the *Black-Bird*, about the bigness of a *Crow*, which feeds on the *Berries* that fall from the *Palmeto*; whose flesh is nothing inferiour to a Pidgeon. But the smaller Black-Bird resembles ours in *England*; save only it has a longer bill, and the fleshy part of the taste

of

of our *English* Starlin, so that you must strip him of his skin, otherwise he eats bitter.

The *Booby*, so called, is a bird over credulous, because when to proffer him your hand, he'll perch on your fist. He feeds upon fish, and his flesh eats fishey; and some of them you shall see as big as a Capon, whose Down is rich, beyond degrees of comparison; and less than two ounces from each individual Bird you need never doubt of, and their Numbers so numerous, that in ten days time, and by easie Artifice, an ordinary Man may procure ten thousand at first setling in the Island.

The *Blew-headed Parrot* is a very pretty bird, but in largeness he's somewhat inferiour to the green, they may be taught to talk any Dialect, because naturally affected with the vanity of tattle, roast or boil them you'll commend the Diet. So of the *Parraketoes*, of which there are two sorts; one about the bigness of our *English Thrush*, but plumed like a Parrot, and because inclinable to prattle, the difficulty's the less to learn them to speak. But the smaller *Parraketo* exceeds not a Sparrow in bigness, and like the green Parrot may be taught to talk, whose flesh is equivalent with that of the Parrot, save only you have not so much at a meal. Then there's the *Main Parrot*, whose Head is Yellow, and has a Yellow Breast; which to make him more beautiful, Nature has clbathed him, though in green. This Bird speaks the best, and is more docible than the rest; and if I mistake not, is a rich food to feed on.

Then there's the *Macaw*, that's headed like a Parrot, but his body in proportion is four times bigger, whose feathers because shaded with blews, reds and green, makes him shine with lustre, since beautified with such eminent colour, one of them is to be seen in St. *James*'s Park.

But

But the *Flamingo* of all fowls is the faireſt; and as they generally fly in Covees together, ſo they frequently feed in flocks together; whoſe ſtature is tall and upright; equal to the height of a Man. Some call them good food, but I aſſert they have curious Feathers, and of various colours. Truly to admiration when I have viewed this Creature, I have been led into ſpeculation to contemplate the Creation, whoſe outſide, becauſe moſt beautiful, interprets a more glorious Inſide. But to the *Flamingo* whoſe wings are skin'd with a glorious Pink-colour, inclinable to Scarlet; and becauſe fringed and tipt with ſables, make them ſhow rich, as to the Majeſty of Birds.

Tobago alſo has a *Duck* which is delicate food, but then they are ſmaller than ours in *England*; and degenerate as to ſetting, for ours will ſet all night on the Sand, but theſe ſort aloft, and lodge in Trees.

The *Sea-gull* is much of a Caſt with thoſe in *England*, ſomewhat larger than a Duck, and of a Dunniſh Colour.

And ſo the *Sea-mew* is plentiful here, and much of the Nature with thoſe in *England*; if different in any thing, their food eats better.

The *Plover* we have here are of two diſtinct ſorts, and are generally grey, but the one is diſtinguiſhable from the other, by reaſon of different proportion, they are both good food, and delicious to feed on.

The *Turtle-dove* alſo admits of a double diſtinction, becauſe here are two ſorts, one bigger than another, but the larger they only coo, and the leſſer ſort have a kind of mournful murmuring Note; both of them are eatable, and delicate food.

The *Man of War Bird* (ſo called) makes to the ſhipping ſome diſtance from the Coaſt, e're ever the Sea-

men can discover Land; he preys upon Fish, and has a fishy taste. His Body seemingly is as big as a Turkey; whose Feather is of a blackish grey, but his Gills look red, like a *Turkey Cock* when he bristels.

The *Bird of Paradice* (or the *Kings-fisher*) is much about the bigness of our *English Starlin*, whose Feathers represent all colours imaginable; he lives upon Flies that swim on the surface of the Water, and that's his Food which Nature affords him.

The *Pelican* is a Bird about the bigness of a Goose, that has a great Head, and a very large swallow, and a Crop or Craw larger than other Birds. Some of our People has made Caps of their Craws, which they wore to cover their Heads. This Bird feeds upon *Fish*, and has himself a fishy taste; but his Down is excellent.

The *Cockerrico* is the *Indian* Name for the *Tobago Pheasants*, which are as large, and as fair as our *English Pheasants*; and those that have fed upon them, say, they are better food. They are easily taken in Glades with Nets, or struck with shot from the Bows of Trees.

There are two sorts of *Curlews*, the one of them is red, and as big as a Capon; that has a crooked long beak, and gets his living by sucking in Salt-water-plashes. But the grey *Curlew*, which is shaped like the red one, differs only in colour, and in feeding in the freshes. They are both choice food, for those that feed on them.

The *Wood Pidgeon*, so called here, feeds most upon Berries; and is to my thinking the choicest food in *America*. This Bird is bigger than an *English Pidgeon*, and are sometimes so fat that they burst with their fall, when we have taken them off from tops of Trees with our

Shot.

Shot. Here are many other Birds, and Fowls fit for food, but I want Names for them; moreover their Feathers are serviceable and profitable to the Planters, either for present use, or transportation.

Moreover this Island of *Tobago* for raising of Stock, may make such improvement by *Geese*, *Ducks*, *Turkeys*, *Pullin*, &c. (I speak within the bounds of Modesty) *America* cannot produce a richer Soil.

Of Timbers.

I Begin with the *Cedar* first, because its a Tree of eminency, (and stature) that naturally grows in the Island of *Tobago*, and affords excellent Timber from two foot to five foot diameter; with this sort of Wood they generally build their Houses, and Shipping; except what's transported to *Barbadoes* and other Parts.

The *Green Hart* is next, which I take to be *Hercules*; and of this sort of Wood they make all manner of Instruments, either for Inlaying, or the use of Turnery.

Then there is the *Locust*, of two several sorts, the one white, and the other red, from two to three foot diameter; either of them are very good Timber for building Houses, Shores for Milnes, Spindles, and Shafts; they are good to make Beams, and Knees for shipping, or indeed, to speak generally, any thing else.

The *Mastick* is a Timber Tree of so fine a Grain, that it plains like our *English Box*, and the Air turns it black as Ebony; some of them are three and four foot Diameter, it's fit for all uses, and of a Na-

ture so durable, that the *Caribe*-Planters call it Wood everlasting.

Mohogeny is a Tree that resembles the *Cedar* in colour, and is excellent Timber for building of Ships; the *Indians* and *Spaniards* use it much in their building, in regard it's a Timber the Worm will seldom touch under water. Now I fancy this Timber an excellent sheathing for Shipping.

The *Man-grove*, by some called *Red wood*, the proper use of the Wood is for Diers; which if further examined, the Bark is useful in tanning. But white *Mangrove* is of little use, save only good to make Ropes with the rind thereof.

The *White-wood* is a Tree of that singular vertue, the worm will seldom touch it, therefore have the *English Americans* consulted with this Timber to build their shipping, in regard of the singularity and durability of the Wood.

The *Yellow Sander* Tree, is from two to five foot diameter; a Timber of excellent use, and may be fitted to any purpose, it's very useful in the place where it grows, and it's profitable also to those that transport it, and it is a good Drugg, and Physical.

The *Bay-Tree* is a Tree of that admirable vertue, most people admire it; whose Bark is like Cinamon, and whose Berries are as those in *Jamaica*, of a Clove and a Cinnamon scent and taste, qualifies it with a double nature of Spice.

The *Box-Tree* here is a solid and firm Wood, but seldom or rarely grows to that degree of Timber.

The *Fiddle-Tree*, so called, has a sweet Flower, and grows up to Timber also, and is useful in building, *&c.*

The

The *Brazil Tree*, Nature has given it the growth of Timber; and a tincture of that vertue, that it's useful for Diers, in staining of Stuffs, or colouring of Cloth.

Brazilleto, is a Minor or Junior *Brazil*, seldom or rarely arriving to the magnitude of Timber; but as useful in dying as the former.

Bully-Tree is a Ponderous, Durable and Compact Wood; that sinks if put into the Water, they use it in *Barbados* for Rolers, but principally for Coggs Spindles, and Shafts in their Windmills; besides several other uses.

The *Cocus Tree*, we thought it unnecessary to range that among the Timber Trees, having considered it very useful to inlay with, and as profitable as plentiful to the industrious Turner.

The *Cassia Fistula* is a Tree, but I cannot warrant it Timber; however the Fruit is for Physical Use.

The *Callabash Tree* is a kind of tough Timber, which we shape into Pumps, Pump-boxes, Knees, and Timber for small Vessels, and with the shell of the fruit some folks make Drinking Cups, which are called *Calabashes*.

The *Granadilla* is a *bastard Cocus*, much of its nature, and useful in the like cases.

Green Fustick is a sort of Timber fitted for Instruments, or the art of inlaying; but the *Yellow Fustick* is more proper for Diers, as it may be directed, or suited at pleasure to other uses.

Lignum vitæ is a compact and ponderous Wood, good to make Bowls with, and as good to make Bowls of, I mean your Punch Bowls, and also Pestles and Mortars; but the *Gum*, *Flowers* and *Bark*, are preserved as Druggs, *&c.* and Ale or any other Liquor, if provided it have

stood

stood ten or twelve hours in a *Lignum-vitæ*-Cup, and drunk, it helps against Consumptions.

Manchioneel, is a sort of Timber for Plank and Sheathing, so naturally seasoned with some bitter Taste, that the Worm will by no means touch it under Water.

Yellow-Plumb-Tree is a very good Timber, and fitted for several Uses; good for Wainscot, and all manner of Frames, Tables, and of an Excellent Colour.

The *Cabbage-Tree* grows to a prodigious Heighth, some to one hundred foot in length, yet has but a fibrous root, and the *Cabbage* you shall observe at the extreamest part; save only a Lovely Plume of Green Leaves overshade it. But it's no *Timber* tree, by reason it contains so very much Pith; however it's useful for Palasades, and to make Pumps, Gutters, Troughs, and Pailing with: But of the hard, and outmost Rind, the *Indians* by the use of fire, make Piles for their Arrows; and with the Leaves they cover the tops of their Houses, or Wiggwams; but the *Cabbage* it self is a most delicious food, and superexcels ours in *England*.

The *Ebony Tree* grows naturally here, I need not to speak the use of that.

But the *Shrubs* that grow here are, the *Physick Nut*, and *Flowerfence*; which are planted in rows (or lines) as our Hedges are, to divide and distinguish Plantations; and the *Sensible Plant*, which contracts it self as soon as you touch it, is but a Shrub neither, that grows plentifully here.

The *Violet Wood* is excellent for inlaying grows here, I have sold it for 56 Pound *Sterling per Tunn*.

The

The Staples of Tobago.

THe *Cocao* (that maketh *Chocolatto*) is a Nut so generally known, that it needs no description; but yet I thought good to insert for encouragement, that in the Latitude of the Island of *Tobago*, one acre of Land by modest computation may yield to the Planter 400 pieces of Eight *per Annum*, (which in *Barbados* is valued at 100 *l. Sterling*) after the Trees have been planted six years. Then there's another thing worthy your consideration, that never any *Hurricane*, nor the Blasts (fatal to *Jamaica* and *Hispaniola*) has been ever known in the latitude of *Tobago* to strike the tender blossoms and buds, with its perishing stroke; which experience confirms unto us, that by opening of the Woods in those parts, thereby to plant Canes, or ground provision, they let in the Blast that invaded the *Cocao*, (but in this latitude, were we open to the Ocean, it's never the worse; for it never blasts here;) which *Cocao* was so plentiful in *Jamaica* and *Hispaniola* formerly, that in the year 1654. I was at the taking of a *Spanish* Vessel loaden with *Cocao*, which came from *Hispaniola*; so great was the plenty then, and to admiration; but the reason I have already laid down, why there is such a scarcity now, and think it needless to make repetition, save only to tell you that the *Cocao Tree* grows naturally wild in the Woods here in *Tobago*, and the *Indians* here gathered of the Nuts and brought to us; which Nuts were transported to *Barbados*, as Mr. *Rodderigo* the *Jew* now in *England* can evidence the same.

Th

The *Sugar Cane* was planted here by the *Dutch*, and I almost blush to express their wonderful increase, that the produce of one Acree of Canes should amount to six thousand pound of Sugar, besides *Rum* and *Molassos*, which in *Barbados* and the *Leward Islands* they esteem it great profit, if at any time one Acre yields them three thousand. And yet the Sugar Cane we approve to be none of the best Staples in the Island of *Tobago*.

And the *Tobacco* that grows in this Island is nothing inferiour to *Spanish Trinidado*, that lies distant about but six Leagues, and not above twenty miles Norr from the *Verines*; from whence comes the best *Tobacco* in the world. Several small Vessels have I seen loaden from *Trinidado*, and the *Tobacco* sold in the *Role* for 2 *s.* *per pound*, which Merchandize they transpot to old *Spain* and other Parts to advance the price, which turns to considerable profit. So that in *Tobago* I perswade my self that a stout labouring man may make 3000 *l.* of *Tobacco* into Roll every year, and do it with a great deal of ease; which if sold but at seven pence *per* pound sterling, comes to a consideral Sum; as the *Hollander* when they had the Island ingrossed the same, and gave six *Stivers* for it there; which was afterwards transported to considerable profit.

Indigo is a certain weed that grows in *Barbados*, and in most of the *Leward* Islands; but the best to my observation grew in *Guatimale*, which lies in or near the latitude of *Tobago*; by which I may rationally conclude that as good *Indigo* may be made here as there; that one hand may dress up, and cure 1500 pound weight in one year, all materials fitted, and the weed brought to the place.

There are two sorts of *Cotton*, Ravil and Vine, of either

either sort of which an industrious Planter may Plant two thousand weight in a Year; and this I look upon is the meanest Staple in *Tobago* for a man to go upon, and employ his hands.

Ginger, That's another Staple, and as good grows here as in any part of the World, some Races bigger than a Man's Hand, the sticky Ginger far greater may be ground to Powder, good for the Brewers; which admits of two several ways of curing to better it; so that some scal'd and dry it, othersome scrape it, but the last is best, and more than doubles the price, let Markets rule as they will. But of the first it's ordnary for one man to make seven Thousand pound weight a year.

Sarsaparilla is a *Spanish* Drugg that grows in the *Indies*, of which by reason of the great Plenty in *Tobago*, one man I perswade my self may gather and dry as much as by modest Computation comes to eighty, or a hundred pound Sterling a Year.

Semper Vivum is a certain Juicy Plant that's guarded with a prickle Leaf. I need not tell you the Use and Virtue of this Plant, of which the Planter here, as in *Barbadoes*, &c. may make as good Aloes as that which comes from *Succotrina*. So that a thousand weight of Aloes *Succotrina* will countervale the value of two thousand of *Hippatica*.

Bees-wax is another Staple; of the Honey we make Metheglin, or expose it to other uses.

The *Vinillios* grows like the Cod of a French-bean, and is somewhat flat, and thinner, and full of small Seeds; it generally grows upon bushes, or brambles that spread themselves upon Rocks: So that when it blossoms it sends forth such a fragrancy as perfumes the air; and when the Cods are ripening, they first turn green, after that brown, and last of all a more obscure

Colour. Some use them as a perfume for *Chocolata*, or otherwise to put amongst Cloaths, (but the *Spaniard* cures them by a secret way that I learnt of them when I was a Prisoner amongst them, which is a great Secret) which afterwards they dry up, and bind them in bundles of about one hundred in a bundle ; which bundles have been sold in *England* for twenty, thirty, or forty Shillings. Of these sweet Codds I perswade my self that an active man may gather as much in a season as will amount to the value of ten thousand Codds, and not lose much time.

The *Natural Balsam* (as we call it) is a certain sappy Juice, that issues forth of the body of the Tree, after you have wounded it, by making a hole therein, so tap it, and the Liquor descends into a clean Gourd, or any other Vessel that's placed under it. The Leaf of this Tree differs but a little from that of the Figg-tree, and the *Balsam* of most sovereign use for wounds, both inward and outward : Yet the true Valuation of this excellent Balsam is hitherto unknown. However, great quantities, as thirty or forty Gallons, may be gathered in a Year, by a diligent and industrious man.

And then there's the *Balm* (like that) of *Gilead*, (and equal in Virtue for ought I know) that comes from the Flower of the Balsam-tree, whose Leaf is Yellow, of a golden colour, and as big as a Rose when the flower is full blown, in which yellow Rose there appears about some three or four bubbles, or drops of an Amber colour, each of the bigness of a Pea, which springs out of the Rose, and is that excellent and miraculous Balm, more valuable than Money. But the Virtues I acquired of an *Indian*, who instructed me in the use on't, which at that juncture of time proved fortunate to me, when to consider the cut and bruise of my finger that made me

languish

languish under intollerable pain, yet in one Minutes time to be released from pain; and within less than twenty four hours to receive an absolute Cure, confirmed it a Medicament of admirable Virtues. Of which precious Balm I modestly judge near forty pound weight might be gathered (by an industrious man) in less space of time than eight or ten months, besides other labour.

The *Silk-Grass*, so called, is a Plant that flourishes most in moist bottoms, and has a large, broad, long and thick Leaf, guarded with Prickles, not much unlike the teeth of a Saw, yet spread themselves every way; out of the Centre of these Leaves there grows a stalk, twelve or fourteen foot high, to four or five Inches diameter, towards the bottom. When this stalk begins to wither, then the leaves are cut away, and laid in Water, as you do Hemp; afterwards they dry it in the Sun, then hackle off the rotten pithy Substance which adheres to the more purer part of the *Silk-Grass*, which may be spun to the fineness of silk, *&c.* whereof you may make furniture for Houses, or Habits for your self and others. But the general use of it is to make Ropes, and fishing Lines, of which to my certain knowledge there's no stronger, nor better in the World, and is a good staple.

Arnotto or *Annotto*, it's all one, (the *Hollanders* call it *Rocoo*) it strikes a deep red, and is profitable for Dyers. The plenty of this Plant is such here, that one Man on a Acre of Ground may in one years time make a thousand Pound weight; but the *Annotto* is cured two several ways. *First*, The *Barrel*, which is an inferiour sort, and barrel'd up while as yet it's moist; but the Cakes are dried in the *Sun*. I have set down the Method and Order for both. This *Annotto* groweth in prickly Burrs, like Teasels, which Burrs when

they be ripe, are full of Red Seeds, that are to be gathered in dry Weather, and put on a clean floor to thrash out the Seed, which afterwards ought to be put into a Fatt, and steeped there till the water elicites a deep red Tincture; which the rather and sooner is done, if provided you sometimes stir it: Then with a Sieve, (or somewhat else of a like nature) they separate the Seeds from the Tincture, by letting the Water run through a Fosset till nothing visibly remains, but the Recrement or Sedement in the bottom, which substance when like Batter, they put it into Barrels, and so transport it. But others more curious, dry it in the *Sun*, which makes it better, and fitter for sale; and to yield almost a double price.

The *Green Tarr* issues out of the Earth from the *Munjack Rocks*, and is commonly gathered after a shower of Rain, by skimming it off from the surface of the Water; and then put it into a great Gourd, or such like Vessel, that has a hole at the bottom, they separate the Oyl from the Water, by suffering the Water to slide gently out, but when the Oyl appears, they cautiously stop and preserve it for several servile uses, as to burn in Lamps, *&c.* and has a most sovereign vertue to help against Pains, and Aches in any part of the Body. In the Island of *Tobago* great quantities of this Oyl is procurable.

The *Munjack* is nothing else than a Confirmation or Coagulation of the *Tarr* (we spoke of) into a more solid body, which *Munjack* were it in a frigid, as it is in the torrid *Zone*, would be absolute Cole, such as we burn in *England*. This *Munjack*, after its beat into powder, they incorporate or mingle it with Earth, to burn under their Coppers in *Barbadoes*; otherwise it runs into an oily Substance, by reason of the Heat, as has been observed

observed by melted Pitch, instead whereof the *Spaniard* substitutes *Munjack*.

The *Soap Earth* represents to me a kind of Clay, that Nature has endued with vertue, and the Qualification of cleansing, and purifying other bodies; which dissolves in Salt, and fresh Water; and makes a lather like Sope-sudds, wherewith I washed my Hands; and it not only scoured them, but took off the tanning to admiration, and so it happens either to Linnen or Woolen; by reason of its Mundificative Vertue and Quality.

There is also a *Clay* that serves to clay Sugar with, or you may, if you please, make Earthen Ware thereof. Moreover, it will make good Brick or Tile, or to mingle it with Sand, you may shape it into Glass.

Many curious Shells, Stones, Markasites, and Minerals are found up and down the Island of *Tobago*, whose vertue and worth is as yet unknown, and as by the Bounty of Heaven here's plenty enough for the Sustentation of Man and Beast, so by a natural instinct and inclination Nature opens her doors of Treasure, wherewith to adorn and inrich the industrious. God is pleased to endue this Island with plenty, so let her Inhabitants be mindful not to surfeit with excess; for if fulness and ease be the Parents of Idleness, idleness must of Necessity be the darling of a soft and remiss Generation, that slides into the foolish Embracements of Honour and Ambition, which is the overthrow of civil Society; and from which two Evils, *Libera nos Domine*.

Directions

Directions for Improvement in the Island of TOBAGO.

SUppose a Man that has an hundred pound *Sterling* is minded to transport himself and Family, consisting of eight in number, to this Island of *Tobago*, and suppose their passages may cost him 47 *l.* 10. *s.* and Manuals with other things requisite and necessary for Planting, as also Provision for the first twelve months, together with the charge of Household-stuff, and all other Necessaries, may stand him in 47 *l.* 10. *s.* more. Suppose also this man takes a Lease of fifty Acres of Land for a thousand years, at the rate of two shillings an Acre anually, it amounts but to five pounds a year, (except otherwise he purchase the Fee simple of the Proprietors) which compleats the Hundred Pound. This is the first Money laid out, nor need he be at any more charge, for in twelve months time he will have ground Provision enough, and in all Probability two Crops of Tobacco.

The next thing to consider of, is the Improvement of the said Land; which is as followeth. After your arrival in the Island of *Tobago*, the first six Months may be spent to clear fifteen Acres of Land, and to put Provisions into the ground; to build Conveniencies to accommodate your self and Family, to adapt and fit the ground for planting a Nursery of *Cacoa-nuts*; as also a bed sowed with Tobacco seeds, and be sure to keep your Nursery clear from Weeds. Then about a Months time after you have sown your Tobacco seed, or before,

(pro-

(provided the Seasons be good) you may then draw your Tobacco Plants, and plant them about some four foot distance one from another, regularly and in rows; which said Tobacco *Tobago* produces, is nothing inferiour to *Spanish Trinidado*, that lies about six or seven Leagues distance from the said Island of *Tobago*, where I have seen the *Spaniards* (when I was a Prisoner amongst them) sell great quantities of *Trinidado Tobacco* at the rate of two shillings a pound; which said *Tobacco* the *Spaniards* transport from thence to old *Spain*, and sell it there to considerable advantage. Now amongst your *Tobacco* Plants you may plant your *Cocoa*, and transplant them when about six Months old into new ground, fitted at ten or twelve foot distance; and be sure to keep clean from Weeds: In which latter six Months time, you may have on your cleared ground two Crops of *Tobacco*. Now admitting you make but eight thousand weight of Neat *Tobacco* on the said Ground, yet in all probability (provided your People be healthy) it may double the Number to sixteen thousand, or more; nay, thirty thousand, if you make it not into Rolls: But if it do not, and put the case your *Tobacco* sell but for an eigth part of what the *Spaniards* sell for in *Trinidado* (which is but three pence *per* Pound sold here in our Island) yet will this Crop yield you one hundred pounds *Sterling*, which is your Money gained the very first Year, and in six Months time, all Charges being born, but it may well make two hundred pound *Sterling*.

Now suppose that at the beginning of the Second Year the said fifteen Acres be all cleared, and Provision enough put into the ground, sufficient for double your number of Hands, you may rationally then

then expect four Crops in twelve Months time, when as formerly you made two Crops in the last six Months. So that with the hundred pound, or two hundred pounds you gained last year, you may now purchase seven or eight Slaves, or Servants, which may in all probability treble the first year. But put the case it but only double, yet at the worst it may yield you (all Charges born) two hundred pounds *Sterling*, and Rent paid.

Now we cannot otherwise conclude (if things succeed well) but that the third year will double the second year by improvement, as above is expreſt; and if so, then your Crop will amount to four hundred pounds *Sterling*.

And the fourth year doubles the third year, by reason the *Cocoa* that was planted the first year on the fifteen Acres of Land, may produce to the value of thirty pound *Sterling* an acre; besides the encrease of *Tobacco*, and clearing of more ground, together with your encrease of Servants and Slaves, and planting of more *Cacao* Trees, which at least will arise to eight hundred pounds sterling, the fourth year.

The fifth year in all probability doubles the fourth, by reason the *Cocao* that was first planted, yields now to the value of sixty pound *Sterling* an Acre, as the second years planted *Cocoa* yielded but thirty pounds *per* acre. So that clearing of more ground, and purchasing more Slaves and Servants, your produce of *Cocoa* and *Tobacco* clears you at least one thousand six hundred pounds *Sterling*, as now the price goes.

The sixth year you may very well clear three thousand pounds *Sterling*, and all charges born; by reason the *Cocoa* planted the first, is now come to perfection, and is at its full height of bearing. Which in this latitude

tude may yield one hundred pounds *Sterling* an acre; (*viz.*) the first fifteen acres which were planted the first year, and the second years Plants planted the second year, will yield you sixty pound *Sterling*, and the third years Plants, as by the same calculation, may yield you thirty pounds *Sterling* an acre. So that by purchasing the more Servants and Slaves, you may if you please decline so much planting of Tobacco as formerly you did.

The seventh year you will have all your Land planted with *Cocao*; and that encreasing, you need not plant above ten, or fifteen acres of Tobacco this Year, amongst your *Cocao*; but you may plant Provisions amongst them for support and maintenance of your self and Family. So that from that encrease of your seventh years Crops, you may hope, and expect by a modest computation, to clear from the said fifty acres of Land, at least five thousand pound *Sterling* a year.

But now admit that 40000 acres of Land is established into a Joint-Stock, and a Bank and Factory of Credit settled there, then admit that the Planter comes only from one of our Plantations, and brings no body with him, neither Money, nor Moneys worth, yet he may be supplied with Servants, *Negroes*, Land, and all things necessary, which is far greater incouragement to the poor Planter than have been offer'd in any Plantation, and there is no doubt but he may with his Labour well pay 25 *l.* for each Negro at the years end, and pay 10 *s. per* acre *per Annum*, if he so improves, and clears his *Negroes*, and pays his Rent for the Land, and all things else, by having Credit as above expressed.

And now we come to the Reasons for this great improvement; you must consider, that the *Spaniards*

in *Trinidado*, &c. give among themselves one hundred pounds *Sterling* for a Negro Slave, and yet the said Slave will not stand his Master in one single penny at the years end for his purchase. And all the labour and service the *Spaniard* employs him in the year about, is only in *Cocoa*, and *Spanish Tobacco*, in this our latitude.

Now pray consider, that we can have Negro Slaves brought and delivered to us at twenty five pounds *Sterling per* Head in the time of War, but in Peace the common price is fifteen pounds sterling *per Negro*; for reason we have an open trade, and the *Spaniard* allows not of a free trade. Where note, the *Spaniard* pays six pence, or more, for every thing he wants; when we can have the same for a single penny. That's one reason.

The second Reason is, the *Spaniard* cannot have any *Tunnage* for Goods from old *Spain* to the *West-Indies*, and home again, for less than forty or fifty pounds sterling *per Tun*; besides the Duties run very high. And we can have freight for five or six pounds *per Tun*, *English Tunnage* in time of Peace, and no Duties from us to a free Port. When therefore to consider and compute the charge on either side, we profit by what we transport six to one. Which makes the *Spaniard* generally so poor in the *Indies*, and we generally to flourish so much the more.

The third Reason is, that in a Ship of three hundred *Tun*, the *Spaniard* has seldom less than two hundred men belonging to her; and the wages of each man comes at least to 50 s. Sterling *per* Month one with another; which in the whole amounts to five hundred pounds a Month, barely for wages, then you are to consider the Monthly Provision to accommodate these Men cannot come

to

to less than one hundred and sixty pounds Sterling, and ten Months at six hundred and sixty pounds *per* Month, amounts to six thousand and five hundred pounds Sterling for ten Months. Moreover, this Ship of three hundred Tun seldom carries less then forty pieces of Ordnance, which with their Provisions, *&c.* by modest computation takes up no less room then one hundred and fifty Tun. So that the Ship in all Probability cannot bring home more than one hundred and fifty Tun of Merchants Goods, and the freight of these Goods comes to forty pound Sterling a Tun. So that by this Calculation they must be loosers at least six hundred pounds Sterling; and suppose at 45 *l. per* Tun, to pay ware and tare of the Ship, and Mens wages. So that for the Ships ware and tare it comes barely but to one hundred and fifty pound Sterling clear.

Now admit an *English* Ship of three hundred Tun be bound for *Jamaica*, and suppose the freight of this Ship be at six pounds Sterling *per* Tun, *English* Tunnage, this Ship shall make her Voyage better in eight Months time then the *Spaniard* shall in ten Months; now the freight of the *English* Ship comes to one thousand eight hundred pound Sterling, and the Wages and Victuals of the said Ship at sixty pound *per* Month comes to four hundred and eighty pounds Sterling, so that you see the Ship clears for her Ware and Tare the Summ of one thousand three hundred and twenty pound Sterling: See here therefore the great Difference.

The fourth and last reason is this, the King of *Spain* contracts with a body of Merchants to furnish the *West-Indies* with four thousand *Negroes* every year; and the *Nigrillos*, or Merchants there, engage to pay the King one hundred peices of Eight Custom for each *Negro* slave brought unto them, which comes to four

hundred thousand pieces of Eight by the year, which is paid to the said King, the King therefore prohibits all Merchants, and others, for bringing *Negroes* to the *West-Indies*: And each piece of Eight is valued at five shillings Sterling in *Barbadoes*; but in the *Lee-ward Islands* it goes for six.

Here followeth the PROPOSALS *made by my self and Company: To all such People as are minded to Transport or Concern themselves in the Island of* TOBAGO, *which lieth about forty Leagues South from* Barbadoes.

WHereas I understanding the Undoubted Right of the Island of *Tobago* doth properly belong to the Dukes of *Courland*, their Heirs and Successors, therefore did enter into Covenant with *James* late Duke of *Courland*, his Heirs and Successors, in the behalf of my self and Company, for 120000 Acres of Land in the said Island, and after seven years Possession to pay 2 *d.* per Acre *per Annum*.

Secondly, That my self and Company, and all the Inhabitants, shall enjoy Liberty of Conscience, without Interruption.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, That my self and Company, *&c.* are to be Governed by a Governour, Deputy Governour, and Assembly, which said Deputy Governour and Assembly to be yearly chosen by the Majority of Free-holders Votes of the People in the Island, to make good and wholesome Laws for the good Government and Defence of the said Island; and all Controversies in the Premises to be decided by the Majority of Voices.

Note, These are but Breviates, and part of the Heads of the Grant from the Duke of *Courland*, Ratified to my self and *Company*, whereby we hold and enjoy our Land; for that end I do refer all People to the Grant, as more at large; as also to them that have been on the Skirt and Body of the said Island, to confirm the Truth of what is before spoken of the Products of the said Island.

Proposals *for further Encouragement.*

First, Those which are desirous to concern themselves in the said Island, shall and may have

as

as much Land as they themselves please, either by Lease or Purchase; only they are to put upon every fifteen Acres of Land one *White Man*, and so in proportion to the rest; and this to be done in three Years Time, the Time to begin from the first Arrival on the said Land.

Thirdly, And for a further Encouragement, all those Persons and Planters that are any ways concerned in the Premises, shall have *Credit* given unto them from Crop to Crop, as the *Factory* is stor'd, for what they shall stand in need of; for which the said Company will Erect a *Bank* or *Factory of Credit* in the said Island, the Debtor allowing only two and a half *per Cent.*

Fourthly, All Merchants and others that shall import any Negroes or other Merchandise into the said Island, shall have their Goods and Debts insured, and disposed of, for two and a half *per Cent.* with Factorage, Storage, Wharfage, *&c.* And Exported again for two and a half *per Cent.* more. And all *Tradesmen* and others that contract any Debts amongst themselves, shall have credit given them out of the *Bank* or *Factory*, from Crop to Crop, for two and a half *per Cent.* And the *Proprietors* do Engage their Whole Interest for the

true

true Performance of the aforesaid Premises.

Fifthly, All Merchants and others that have Goods fit to accommodate the said Island, and have not ready Money to purchase Land, nor to pay for their own or Servants Passage, such may barter with Goods in lieu of Money: Always provided, this implies only such Persons as contract with the *Proprietors*, or some of them, before the first Shipping departs out of the River of *Thames*, to Ship off, as above, their proportion of *Goods* or *People*, as is already sufficiently above-expressed.

And for a further Encouragement for the Inhabitants, they having Power to make their own Laws, and by which means they may establish a *Bank* and *Factory* of *Credit*, with a General Register; so that the Whole Island and Stock thereon shall be as Credit, and be a sufficient Security for the Importer of Goods and *Negroes*.

As also at least 30000 Natives of *Trinidado*, will bring their Products to us rather than the *Spaniards*, for we can give them double the price the *Spaniards* do; for by our bartering with them they can carry the same to the *Spaniards*;

by

by which means we may supply the *Spaniards* with *European* Commodities, and all this may be done by the Means of the Natives; and much more might be made appear, but my little Volume will not contain any more, and so I take leave of the Reader.

J. POYNTZ.

FINIS.

Advertisement.

THE said Captain Poyntz doth give Notice, that he keeps his Office at the Marine Coffee-House in Birchin-lane.